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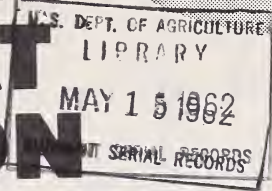
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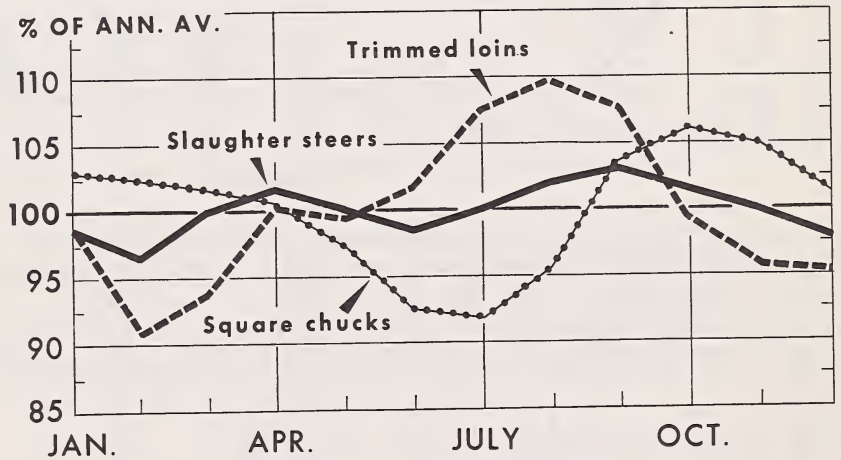


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SEASONALITY IN PRICES OF STEERS AND WHOLESALE CUTS AT CHICAGO

The normal pattern of seasonal variation in the price of Choice slaughter steers is a blend of many factors. On the demand side, the seasonal pattern of consumer behavior has an important bearing on live animal price.

During warm weather, consumer preference shifts from roasts to steak and vice versa for the cooler months. The composite carcass value, and hence live animal price, is affected by the price changes in wholesale cuts resulting from this consumption pattern.



SEASONAL VARIATION FOR CHOICE GRADE, 1955-60

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

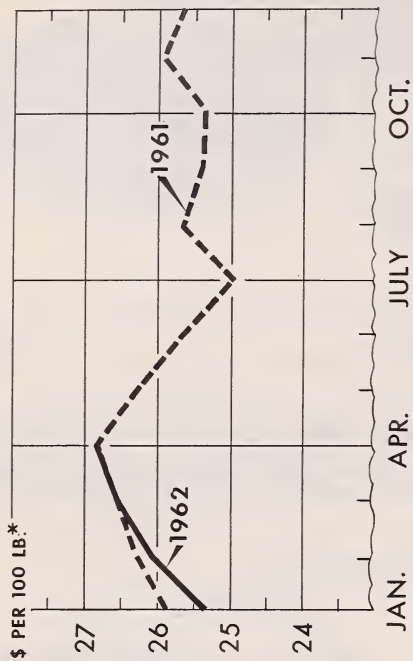
NEG. ERS 1064-62(4) ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

IN THIS ISSUE

- Foreign Trade in Livestock and Meat
- Seasonality of Hog Slaughter Weights
- Seasonal Price Pattern for Beef Cattle

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FEEDER STEER PRICES

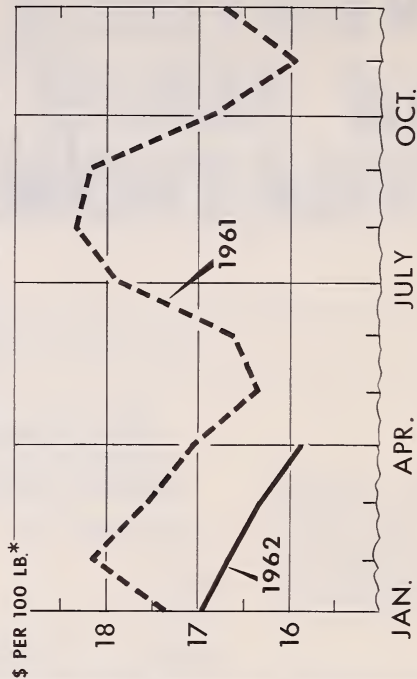


* CHOICE GRADE, 500-800 LB. AT KANSAS CITY.

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HOG PRICES

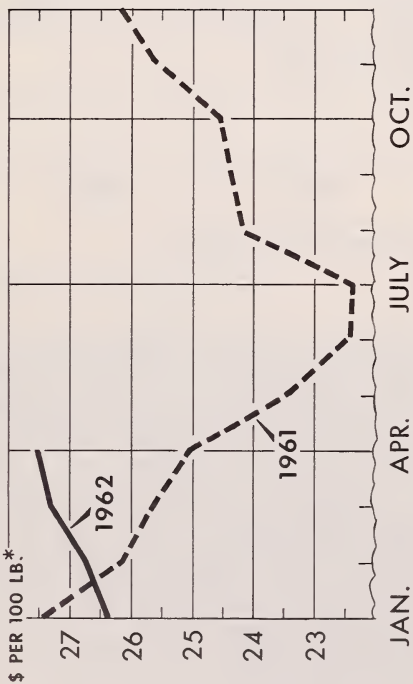


* BARROWS AND GILTS, # MARKETS.

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NEG. ERS 1089-62 (4)

SLAUGHTER STEER PRICES

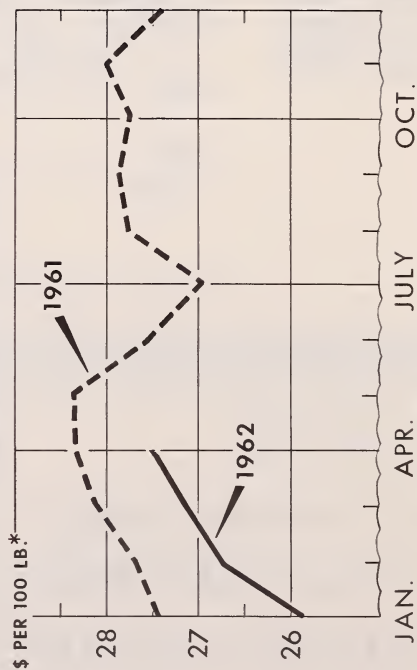


* CHOICE GRADE, SOLO OUT OF FIRST HANDS AT CHICAGO.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. ERS 1086-62 (4) ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

FEEDER CALF PRICES



* GOOD & CHOICE, 300-500 LB. STEER CALVES AT KANSAS CITY.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEG. ERS 1087-62 (4)

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 T H E L I V E S T O C K A N D M E A T S I T U A T I O N
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Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, May 1, 1962

:		:
:	CONTENTS	:
:		:
:		Page
:		:
:	Summary	3
:	Review and Outlook	:
:	Cattle	4
:	Sheep and lambs	8
:	Hogs	11
:	Foreign Trade in Livestock and Meat	13
:	Rank of States in Meat Animal Production	17
:	Seasonality in Slaughter Hog Weights	20
:	Seasonal Price Variation for Choice Slaughter Steers	22
:	List of Tables	31

SUMMARY

Cattle prices, which are now near their high for the year, likely will decline gradually the next two months but are not expected to break as sharply as they did a year ago. Hog prices probably will show some improvement starting in late May, and are expected to work closer to year-earlier levels by the first of July. The spring lamb marketing season will be in full swing by mid-May with prices significantly above last year.

Prices of all livestock are expected to decline seasonally the last half of this year. Lamb prices likely will continue above last year's prices throughout the remainder of the year; hog prices are expected to hold near last year's level through the summer but will drop somewhat below year-earlier prices in the fall; and beef cattle prices probably will drop below year-earlier levels at the peak of the fall marketing season in October and November.

Red meat production in the first quarter of 1962 exceeded last year's first quarter output by 4 percent. Pork production was up 5 percent; beef production was up 3 percent; lamb and mutton production was equal to last year; but veal production was down 4 percent. Domestic meat production was supplemented by larger imports of meat during the first quarter of this year compared with a year ago. The increase in imports was mainly in processing beef and mutton.

Cold storage holdings of meats at the end of the quarter were up somewhat from a year ago. However, the bulk of the increased production and imports went into domestic consumption, resulting in an increase in per capita consumption of meat over a year ago.

Per capita supply of red meat was 4 percent above last year for the quarter. Choice steers at Chicago averaged about 2 percent higher, slaughter barrows and gilts averaged about 6 percent below last year, and old crop lambs averaged about 3 percent under the first quarter of 1961.

Beef production during the second quarter of this year is expected to be about equal to first quarter production but down about 4 percent from a year ago. Pork production will decrease seasonally from April through June but will remain above a year ago. On the other hand, lamb and mutton production will not only be down seasonally from the first quarter but will be down sharply from the high level of production maintained during the second quarter last year.

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

CATTLE

The weekly pattern of federally inspected cattle slaughter the first quarter of this year has been similar to that of last year, i.e., slaughter peaked in mid-January, decreased through February, and then leveled off in March. Federally inspected slaughter in the first quarter was 4 percent above a year ago. Since it comprised a larger proportion of total commercial slaughter this year than last, commercial beef production was up only 3 percent.

Prices have shown a firmer underlying demand situation than in the first quarter last year. In spite of the decrease in slaughter from January to March last year, prices weakened substantially and Choice slaughter steers at Chicago dropped from a high of \$27.80 for the week ending January 13 to \$25.35 for the week ending March 24. This year, prices started to rise as the weekly rate of federally inspected slaughter dropped in early February. This price strength carried Choice slaughter steer prices above year-earlier levels by mid-February and since that time the margin has widened to \$3.00 by the end of April.

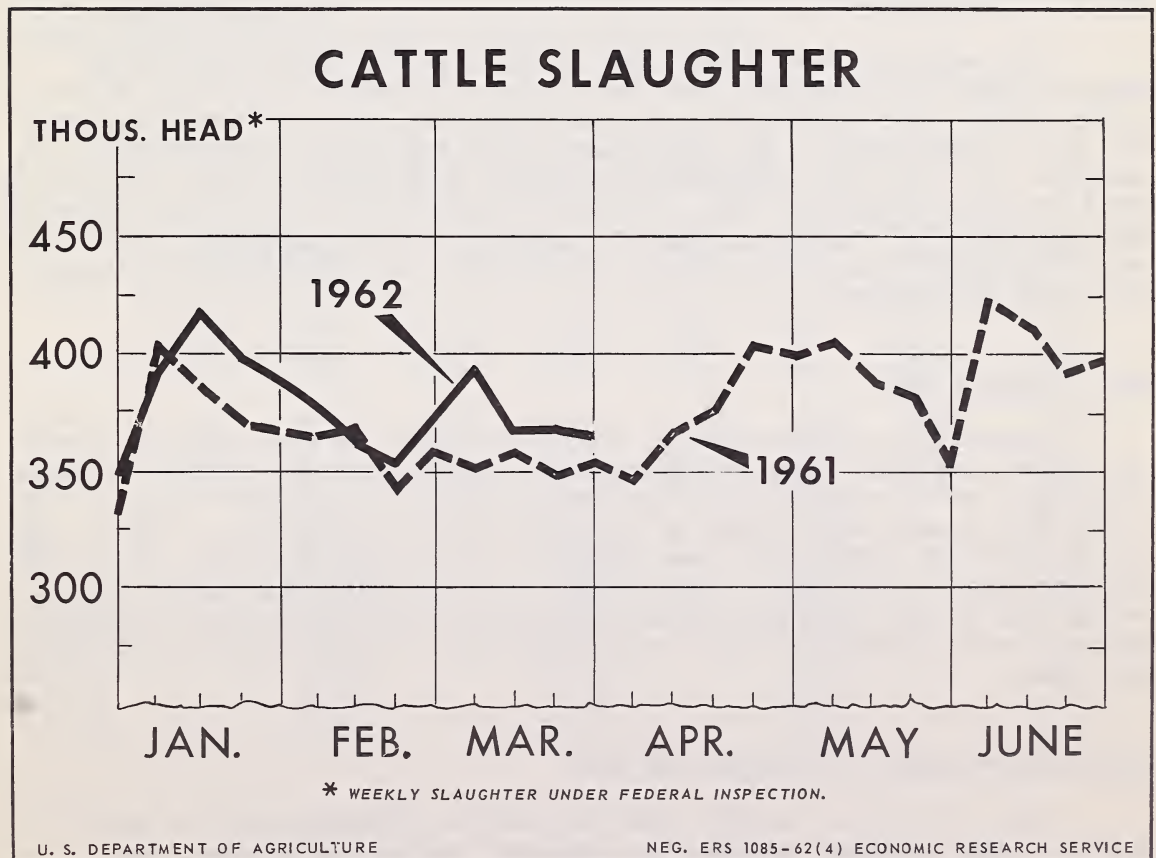
Second Quarter Beef Production To Fall Below Last Year

Cattle slaughter rose sharply in April 1961 and was maintained at a high level throughout the second quarter. (See chart page 5.) The average dressed weight of cattle slaughtered during the second quarter also increased so that beef production was 6 percent above the first quarter of 1961 and about 8 percent above the second quarter of 1960. The increase in marketings from feedlots in 26 States accounts for about 2/3 of the increase in slaughter and the other 1/3 was derived from other sources.

The situation at the beginning of the second quarter this year is considerably different from last year. The April 1 inventory of cattle on feed in 26 States, at 7.2 million head, is 1 percent above the 7.1 million head on feed in these same States April 1, 1961. However, the combined total of steers over 900 pounds and heifers over 700 pounds in this year's April 1 inventory amounts

to 2,516,000 head--down 5 percent from the number in these weight groups this January 1, and 9 percent below April a year ago. These weight groups accounted for at least 60 percent of marketings during the second quarter last year and the first quarter this year.

Feedlot operators reported intentions to market 3,376,000 head of cattle during the second quarter out of this year's April 1 inventory of cattle on feed. This volume of marketings is only slightly above the 3,358,000 head marketed out of the January 1 inventory during the first quarter of this year but 2 percent under the 3,438,000 head marketed out of the April 1 inventory during the second quarter of 1961. Moreover, with the number of cattle on feed in the heavier weight groups down 9 percent from last April, cattle feeders will have to dip into the lighter weight groups for a larger number of cattle to make up the difference. Therefore, even if marketings reach 3,376,000 head for the second quarter of this year, beef production probably will be below the second quarter last year by more than the 2 percent represented by marketing intentions. It appears that beef production might be as much as 4 percent below a year ago--unless cow culling increases sufficiently to make up the difference. However, in this case, the effect would be noticeable mostly in prices for the lower grades of slaughter cattle.



Price Prospects Improved
Over Second Quarter 1961

Prices for slaughter grades U. S. Good and above are probably now near or just past their peak for this year, and likely will work lower during May and June. However, a sharp break similar to the \$3.00 drop that occurred in Choice slaughter cattle prices during the second quarter of last year does not appear probable this year. The price decline between now and the end of June is expected to be rather nominal with the margin over last year's price widening during the next two months.

Two seasonal factors likely will be responsible for the price decrease the remainder of this quarter. First, we are moving into a period of increased broiler production. Broilers probably will be specialized frequently through the late spring and summer. This may bring some price pressure in the beef trade. Secondly, with the onset of seasonally warmer weather, consumer preferences shift from beef roasts and boiling cuts to steaks. The normal tendency is for prices of wholesale cuts yielding roasts to weaken and prices of wholesale cuts yielding steaks to increase. However, inasmuch as a larger proportion of the carcass is made up of roasts rather than steaks, the net result is a decrease in the composite carcass value. (See special article on seasonal price patterns for details.)

The continued lack of cull cows in sufficient volume to provide an adequate supply of processing beef has maintained imports of beef and mutton at a high level. Some culling of range cow herds takes place in the late spring and early summer period. If early season culling provides a larger supply of slaughter cows this year, slaughter cow prices probably will drop, particularly until the flow of imported beef is adjusted downward in line with the increased domestic output of cow beef. However, a rather sizeable increase in cow slaughter probably will be necessary to bring about a sharp downward adjustment in cow prices and imports.

Calf Slaughter Down

Commercial calf slaughter in the first quarter of this year was 5 percent under last year. Some of the reduction can be attributed to the decrease in the size of the milk cow herd but the premium paid for feeder cattle is still drawing many steer calves of milk cow origin into feedlots. Feeder calf prices the first half of this year appear to be sufficiently high to hold calf slaughter down to last year's lower level. The slaughter calf market the second half of this year may attract more calves away from feeding programs. However, calf slaughter for 1962 is not expected to differ significantly from last year.

Lower Cattle Prices in Prospect for Fall

With 7.2 million head of cattle on feed in 26 States April 1, and 3,376,000 head of these intended for slaughter during this quarter, the carryover of the April inventory into the July 1 inventory of cattle on feed

Table 1.--Price of slaughter cattle per 100 pounds at Chicago, by months, 1961 and 1962

Month	Steers sold out of first hands				Heifers, Choice		Cows, Cutter grade	
	Choice		Standard		grade 700-900 lb.			
	1962	1961	1962	1961	1962	1961	1962	1961
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
January	26.39	27.42	22.36	23.07	25.86	26.80	14.20	14.89
February	26.76	26.17	21.82	21.75	26.37	25.66	14.87	15.42
March	27.31	25.70	21.98	21.26	26.24	24.87	15.33	15.85
April	1/27.63	25.05	1/22.22	21.05	26.46	24.54	15.38	16.44
May		23.43		20.10		23.16		16.19
June		22.45		20.24		22.92		16.41
July		22.38		20.35		22.62		14.68
August		24.13		22.18		23.11		15.11
September		24.34		22.05		23.26		14.32
October		24.55		21.83		23.31		14.20
November		25.58		22.64		24.26		13.91
December		26.13		22.69		25.01		14.07
Average		24.65		21.30		24.13		15.12

1/ 4-week average.

Data compiled from Market News, Livestock Division, AMS.

Table 2.--Price of feeder and stocker cattle per 100 pounds at Kansas City, by months, 1961 and 1962

Month	Choice grade, 500-800 lb.		Good grade, 500-800 lb.		Heifers, Choice grade 500-750 lb.		Steer calves, Good and Choice 300-500 lb.	
	1962	1961	1962	1961	1962	1961	1962	1961
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
January	25.34	25.86	23.75	24.09	23.62	23.42	25.86	27.44
February	26.03	26.28	23.91	23.90	24.00	23.31	26.76	27.69
March	26.52	26.51	24.52	24.11	24.19	23.47	27.14	28.11
April	26.68	26.81	24.78	24.31	24.26	24.00	27.62	28.32
May		26.25		23.85		23.93		28.35
June		25.62		23.10		23.51		27.58
July		24.98		22.86		23.38		26.96
August		25.66		23.91		23.57		27.72
September		25.40		23.45		23.39		27.86
October		25.35		23.61		23.12		27.73
November		25.92		24.32		23.58		28.00
December		25.68		24.02		23.50		27.45
Average		25.86		23.79		23.52		27.77

Data compiled from Market News, Livestock Division, AMS.

would be 3,824,000 head--up 4 percent from last year. Placements of cattle on feed this quarter will also have an important bearing on the volume of fed cattle marketings during the third quarter. Over 800,000 head of cattle placed on feed the second quarter of 1961 were marketed during the third quarter.

The Flint Hills pasture area of Kansas and Osage pasture areas of Oklahoma will be filled to capacity for summer grazing this year. Currently, this area has prospects for an excellent grazing season. However, elsewhere conditions are less favorable. A large area of the Northern Plains and a large proportion of Texas and Western Oklahoma are urgently in need of moisture to develop adequate grazing. The 30 day weather forecast for most of the West indicates below normal moisture and above normal temperatures for the mid-April mid-May period.

If severe drought develops in West Texas and the Northern Plains, the immediate response probably would be to move cattle into feedlots rather than to slaughter. Consequently, the impact of drought would be more likely to show up in slaughter and beef production this fall rather than through the summer.

The foothill pastures of California have had excellent grass this year and have absorbed a large number of cattle. The grazing season for this area normally ends in the late spring period. Consequently, there likely will be a large number of cattle moved from the foothill pastures to feedlots in the next 2-3 months. These factors all point to potential placements on feed this spring probably in excess of the 2,263,000 head placed on feed during the second quarter last year.

If fed cattle marketings are considerably larger in the fall period as a result of placements on feed this spring and the carryover from the April 1 inventory of cattle on feed, then prices likely will be under considerable pressure at that time. This would bring large quantities of fed cattle on the market at the same time that we reach the seasonal peak of slaughter of grass cattle. Consequently, it looks as though prices this year may work to a low point in October and November. However, the price low for Choice steers this year is not expected to drop to the low point reached last July, when Choice steers averaged \$22.38 at Chicago.

SHEEP AND LAMBS

The sheep and lamb market has been slow to muster significant price strength so far this year. Even though the number of lambs on feed January 1 was down 6 percent from a year earlier, commercial sheep and lamb slaughter for January and February exceed year-earlier slaughter by 7 percent. The number of lambs marketed from feedlots in 7 major lamb feeding States during January and February was 1 percent above marketings for the same period last year. Therefore, the bulk of the increase in sheep and lamb slaughter during the first two months of this year was slaughter of lambs from the stock sheep inventory.

Sheep and lamb slaughter dropped below year-earlier levels in mid-March and has continued under since then. Commercial slaughter for March was 7 percent below last year but half of this reduction is explained by one less slaughtering day in March this year. Wholesale and live lamb prices showed little tendency to improve until the New York area featured lamb the first two weeks of April. The emphasis on lamb in the New York area contributed to a rise in lamb prices at Chicago of about \$0.50 in the two week period and at the same time carried lamb prices nearly a \$1.00 above year-earlier prices by mid-April.

Eastern markets probably will shift to spring lamb on a widespread basis around the middle of May. By this time wholesalers and retailers in the area will be assured of obtaining spring lamb in sufficient volume to feature spring lamb at retail, and prices are expected to be improved accordingly.

The early spring lamb crop probably is about the same size this year as last year. Ewe numbers were down in most States as of January 1, but a larger proportion of ewes lambed early this year. In three major early lamb producing States (California, Texas, and Kansas) the number of early lambs was up 7 percent from last year. The number of ewes on farms January 1 in California and Texas was down 1 percent but a larger proportion of the ewes lambed early thus explaining the increase in the early lamb crop in these States. The number of ewes on farms in Kansas was up 6 percent this January over a year ago.

Sheep and lamb slaughter through the second quarter is expected to average considerably under last year when slaughter was the largest since 1947. Slaughter during this period last year included a large number of old crop lambs. This situation is not expected to be repeated this year.

Lamb Feeding Profits Up

Profits in feeding lambs this past winter were up over a year ago and the highest since 1957. Improved prices from the fall of 1961 to the first quarter of this year were instrumental in the profit picture.

A standard Corn Belt lamb feeding program is presented in table 3. The feedlot operator on the average received \$17.42 for Choice slaughter lambs sold during the December-March period. Good and Choice feeder lambs at Omaha cost on the average \$14.13 for the September-December period. Feeders who bought lambs later in the season probably realized somewhat more of a profit margin than illustrated by the average for the four months. Feeder lambs were almost a dollar cheaper in December and Choice slaughter lambs in March were higher than for the December-February period.

Table 3.--Average price and value of important items affecting returns from lamb feeding, 1956-61

Item	Feeding year beginning December					
	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961
	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
Prices						
Choice slaughter lambs, Chicago, December-March, per 100 pounds	1/21.26	23.67	19.80	20.28	17.40	17.42
Good and Choice feeder lambs, Omaha, September-December, per 100 pounds	18.42	21.32	22.35	18.28	16.26	14.13
Corn, North Central States October-March, per bushel	1.182	.934	.968	.952	.917	.930
Alfalfa hay, received by farmers, North Central States, October-March, per ton	20.32	16.23	16.55	19.20	18.27	19.78
Receipts, per head						
Sales of Choice lambs, 85 pounds	18.07	20.12	16.83	17.24	14.79	14.81
Wool payments	.60	.28	.87	.64	.68	2/.70
Total	18.67	20.40	17.70	17.88	15.47	15.51
Cost, per head						
Feeder lamb, 60 pounds	11.05	12.79	13.41	10.97	9.76	8.48
Corn, 2 1/2 bushels	2.96	2.34	2.42	2.38	2.29	2.32
Alfalfa hay, 150 pounds	1.52	1.22	1.24	1.44	1.37	1.48
Total for items shown 3/	15.53	16.35	17.07	14.79	13.42	12.28
Margin, value over costs shown 3/	3.14	4.05	.63	3.09	2.05	3.23

1/ Choice and Prime lambs.

2/ Rough estimate based on April 1961-January 1962 prices received by growers for shortn wool.

3/ Does not include purchasing or marketing expenses, labor cost, death losses, overhead costs, or costs of other feed ingredients, or credits for manure. The prices shown are averages for the lamb feeding season for the North Central region, and do not necessarily coincide with the experience of individual feeders.

HOGS

Hog Slaughter To Continue Above
Year Ago; Prices Slightly Lower

The upturn in hog production which began late in 1960 has brought slaughter rates persistently above a year earlier since last October. During this time, prices to producers have been below a year before except for January, when prices averaged the same as in January 1961. Hog slaughter the first quarter this year totaled 3 percent larger than a year earlier and price declined slowly. By mid-April, the average price paid to farmers was \$15.40 per 100 pounds, 30 cents below last fall's low.

Last fall's pig crop was 4 percent larger than the 1960 fall crop, but most of the gain came in the first half of the fall farrowing season. Hence, slaughter will likely continue above year-earlier this spring and early summer but margins will be relatively narrow during this period. Slaughter will soon start its seasonal decline toward a summer low and prices will begin an advance that may carry them up to the summer peak of \$17.50 per 100 pounds (farm basis) reached last September.

Increased slaughter beginning in late summer will reflect the increase in the number of pigs born in the spring of 1962, particularly in the early months of the season. Farmers' intentions last fall were to have 3 percent more sows to farrow this spring than last. According to the March report from 10 of the Corn Belt States, these States had increased December-February farrowings by 1 percent over a year before and planned for 2 percent more March-May litters for an overall gain in spring pigs of 2 percent. A record number of pigs were saved per litter last spring. Because of the severe winter and the lateness of the spring, it does not appear that litter size will equal last year's record. Hence, it is likely the total pig crop will be up slightly less than the increase in farrowings. Official estimates of crop size will be released June 22.

Hog prices will likely start seasonally downward earlier than last fall when the downturn came unusually late. Unless marketings are bunched, prices should hold near or only a little below prices a year earlier and for the last half of the year could average nearly as high as in July-December 1961.

This price outlook for hogs is based on the moderate increase in pork production and is supported by the probability of little or no increase in the per capita supplies of other meats and poultry and by a strengthening in demand for meat. Pork production in 1962 is expected to total about 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ billion pounds, about 2 percent more than in 1961. As population is not expanding this rapidly, pork supplies per person will be up about a half pound from the 62.6 pounds consumed in 1961. Consumption per person will still be below 1959 and 1960 rates which were accompanied by average prices to farmers for hogs of \$14.10 and \$15.30 per 100 pounds.

Fall Pig Crop To Increase

The fall pig crop also will increase if producers carry out 10-State intentions, reported in March, for a 5 percent gain in June-August farrowings. If the same increase should continue in September-November, the gain in the

fall crop would probably be large enough to bring lower hog prices in the first half of 1963. Producers reported plans for a similar gain in March 1961 and increased total fall farrowings by only 3 percent. Moreover, the increase in June-August could represent in part a continuation of the shift to earlier farrowings. Hence, some increase in the fall pig crop seems likely but it is not expected to be large.

The hog-corn price ratio would of itself indicate an increase in fall farrowings. During the first three months of this year, it averaged 17, farm basis, compared with 17.2 for the same period in 1961. In April, the ratio was 15.6 but for the March-May period, when the bulk of sows is being bred for fall litters, the ratio will probably average above this level.

USDA Purchases of Lard and
Canned Chopped Meat

As of April 25 the U. S. Department of Agriculture had purchased 27.4 million pounds of lard for distribution to schools, institutions, and needy families since the start of the current program March 22, 1962. Approximately \$3.6 million of Sec. 32 funds had been spent for these lard purchases. Through April 25, purchases of canned chopped meat--principally pork--for distribution to needy families totaled 15.8 million pounds at a cost of \$6.1 million. The current program, under Sec. 32, Public Law 320, began April 12, 1962.

These recent purchases bring total expenditures of Sec. 32 funds since last September to \$13.3 million for 110.8 million pounds of lard and \$53.7 million for 133.6 million pounds of canned chopped meat.

Per Capita Meat Production in 1962
About Same as Year Ago

Commercial meat production for the second quarter of 1962 is estimated at 6.7 billion pounds--down 1 percent from the 6.8 billion pounds produced in the second quarter of 1961. However, with population up by 1.5 percent, per capita supplies from domestic production will be down about a pound for the quarter. The reduced level of meat production in the second quarter is more than enough to offset the increase realized during the first quarter. Therefore, by mid-year per capita production of red meat will be down just slightly from a year ago.

Meat production the last half of this year is estimated at 14.2 billion pounds compared with last year's production of 13.8. This increase in meat production includes a 3 percent increase in beef production over last year and pork production up about 1.5 percent.

If production the last half of this year develops as estimated, domestic production of red meat for 1962 would be about 27.9 billion pounds compared with 27.4 billion pounds last year. This rate of increase would be practically the gain in civilian population so that per capita supplies from domestic production would be about equal to the 152 pounds produced in 1961.

Table 4.--Production and consumption per person of red meat and poultry, United States, 1955-61 and forecast for 1962

Production 1/							
Year	Red meat					Poultry: Red and meat 2/ meat	
	Beef	Veal	Lamb and mutton	Pork	Total		
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.		
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.		
1955	13,569	1,578	758	10,990	26,895	4,390	31,285
1956	14,462	1,632	741	11,200	28,035	5,174	33,209
1957	14,202	1,526	707	10,424	26,859	5,438	32,297
1958	13,330	1,186	688	10,454	25,658	6,043	31,701
1959	13,580	1,008	738	11,993	27,319	6,353	33,672
1960	14,727	1,108	768	11,605	28,308	6,390	34,598
1961	15,296	1,045	832	11,412	28,585	7,338	35,923
1962 3/	15,500	1,100	780	11,700	29,080	7,000	36,080
Consumption per person							
	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
1955	82.0	9.4	4.6	66.8	162.8	26.3	189.1
1956	85.4	9.5	4.5	67.3	166.7	29.6	196.3
1957	84.6	8.8	4.2	61.1	158.7	31.4	190.1
1958	80.5	6.7	4.2	60.2	151.6	34.1	185.7
1959	81.4	5.7	4.8	67.6	159.5	35.2	194.7
1960	85.2	6.2	4.8	65.2	161.4	34.4	195.8
1961	88.0	5.7	5.1	62.3	161.1	37.9	199.0
1962 3/	87.5	5.9	5.0	63	161.5	36.5	198

1/ Production of red meats is carcass weight equivalent of production from total United States slaughter. 2/ Chicken, including commercial broilers, and turkey, ready-to-cook (eviscerated) basis. 3/ Forecast.

Live Cattle and Meat Imports Continue Above Year Ago

The carcass weight equivalent of beef and live cattle imported last year set a new record of 1.3 billion pounds. However, due to the higher level of domestic beef production in 1961, imports for the year represented a slightly smaller proportion of domestic production than in either 1958 or 1959, two years of imports almost equal to the record level of 1961.

The carcass weight equivalent of lamb and mutton imported last year was up from 1960 but not equal to the record imports of 1959. Imports of live lambs and sheep in 1961 was negligible but the inflow of mutton for meat processing became relatively more important.

Table 5.--United States imports of cattle and beef, lambs and lamb and mutton compared with production, 1950-61

Cattle and calves and beef and veal						
Year	Imports				Meat	Imports
	Live animals		Meat	Total	pro- duction	as a per- centage of production
	Number	Meat				
		equivalent				
		<u>1/</u>		<u>2/</u>	<u>3/</u>	
	<u>1,000 head</u>	<u>Mil. lb.</u>	<u>Mil. lb.</u>	<u>Mil. lb.</u>	<u>Mil. lb.</u>	<u>Pct.</u>
1950	438	157	348	505	10,764	4.7
1951	220	91	484	575	9,896	5.8
1952	138	47	429	476	10,819	4.4
1953	177	62	271	333	13,953	2.4
1954	71	35	232	267	14,610	1.8
1955	296	93	229	322	15,147	2.1
1956	141	43	211	254	16,094	1.6
1957	703	221	395	616	15,728	3.9
1958	1,126	340	909	1,249	14,516	8.6
1959	688	191	1,063	1,254	14,588	8.6
1960	645	163	775	938	15,835	5.9
1961	1,023	250	1,037	1,287	16,341	7.9
Lambs and lamb and mutton						
1950	97	3	3	6	597	1.0
1951	14	<u>5/</u>	7	7	521	1.3
1952	<u>4/</u>	<u>5/</u>	6	6	648	.9
1953	1	<u>5/</u>	3	3	729	.4
1954	1	<u>5/</u>	2	2	734	.3
1955	8	<u>5/</u>	2	2	758	.3
1956	3	<u>5/</u>	1	1	741	.1
1957	18	1	4	5	707	.7
1958	40	1	41	42	688	6.1
1959	76	2	104	106	738	14.4
1960	50	1	87	88	768	11.5
1961	1	<u>3/</u>	101	101	832	12.1

1/ Estimated at 53 percent of the live weight of all dutiable imports of cattle and for lambs an average 30 pound carcass.

2/ Canned and other processed meats have been converted to their carcass weight equivalent.

3/ Total production.

4/ Less than 500 head.

5/ Less than 500,000 pounds.

Table 6.--Imports of cattle from Canada and Mexico, 1952 to date

From Canada							
Year	Dutiable cattle						Total cattle
	700 pounds and over		Under 200 pounds	200 to 699 pounds	Total dutiable cattle	Breeding cattle (free)	
	Cows for dairy purposes	Other					
	Head	Head					
1952 <u>1/</u>	4,636	4,244	714	968	10,562	2,222	12,784
1953 <u>2/</u>	21,811	22,931	3,515	896	49,153	20,757	69,910
1954	17,633	46,798	2,872	3,377	70,680	15,259	85,939
1955	25,252	17,543	3,256	2,218	48,269	18,334	66,603
1956	22,678	2,914	3,571	1,390	30,553	18,475	49,028
1957	18,857	186,036	10,486	151,059	366,438	24,818	391,256
1958	19,586	230,025	13,580	373,671	636,862	26,145	663,007
1959	14,998	90,259	30,738	186,630	322,625	20,261	342,886
1960	20,247	60,865	32,079	140,471	253,662	18,480	272,142
1961	24,972	88,660	28,605	337,452	479,689	19,883	499,572
From Mexico							
1952 <u>3/</u>	2,381	43,617	96	81,185	127,279	---	127,279
1953 <u>4/</u>	175	25,364	485	101,901	127,925	2	127,927
1954	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1955 <u>5/</u>	1,424	56,153	539	189,631	247,747	4	247,751
1956	1,684	11,124	848	96,594	110,250	6	110,256
1957	480	44,236	7,914	283,842	336,472	5	336,477
1958	1,255	80,589	3,231	403,166	488,241	---	488,241
1959	1,597	45,697	1,037	317,095	365,426	30	365,456
1960	371	19,631	1,773	369,113	390,888	---	390,888
1961	46	36,410	8,655	497,999	543,110	---	543,110

1/ Imports prohibited beginning February 25, 1952 due to foot-and mouth disease. 2/ Embargo removed March 1, 1953. 3/ Embargo removed September 1, 1952. 4/ Imports prohibited beginning May 23, 1953. 5/ Embargo removed January 1, 1955.

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 7.--United States foreign trade in meat, by countries, 1960 and 1961

Product and year	Exports and shipments, product weight														Total exports and shipments	
	Exports, by destination							Shipments							Total	
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Product weight	Carcass weight equivalent
Canada																
Mexico																
Bahamas																
Cuba																
Jamaica																
Trinidad																
Venezuela																
Netherlands																
Germany																
Other																
Beef and veal																
1960	19.5	0.2	1.8	2/	1.3	0.3	0.8	0.2	---	5.3	29.4	12.3	41.7	56		
1961	18.9	.2	1.8	---	1.6	.5	.1	.1	2/	6.7	29.9	13.3	43.2	58		
Lamb and mutton																
1960	.7	2/	.2	---	2/	2/	2/	---	---	.6	1.5	---	1.5	2		
1961	.5	2/	.2	---	2/	2/	2/	2/	2/	.9	1.6	---	1.6	2		
Pork																
1960	16.3	5.5	2.0	22.2	2.7	2.8	5.1	.5	1.5	10.8	69.4	53.3	122.7	138		
1961	36.2	6.7	1.8	.1	2.9	2.9	6.4	.7	2.3	8.3	68.3	56.9	125.2	139		
Total meat 3/																
1960	37.2	5.9	4.3	22.5	4.1	3.2	8.0	.7	1.7	20.0	107.6	87.4	195.0	196		
1961	56.2	7.1	4.1	.1	4.6	3.5	7.0	.8	2.5	19.7	105.6	83.3	188.9	199		
Imports																
Product weight, by country of origin																
Canada																
Mexico																
Nicaragua																
Guatemala																
El Salvador																
Costa Rica																
Panama																
Guinea																
Uruguay																
Brazil																
Argentina																
Denmark																
Ireland																
Netherlands																
Poland																
Australia																
New Zealand																
Other																
Beef and veal 4/																
1960	18.9	39.1	10.0	9.0	10.8	52.7	4.5	52.8	0.1	2/	144.7	130.7	39.3	512.6	775	
1961	32.3	53.4	14.6	16.3	14.5	65.2	6.5	64.4	.1	.1	233.9	154.4	33.4	689.1	1,037	
Lamb and mutton																
1960	.1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	38.5	9.1	2.0	49.7	87	
1961	.1	2/	---	---	---	---	---	2/	---	---	44.6	10.8	.3	55.8	101	
Pork																
1960	47.3	2/	---	---	---	2/	40.7	.2	42.0	35.1	---	.1	5.9	171.3	186	
1961	44.7	.1	---	---	---	---	46.2	.2	42.0	34.7	---	2/	5.8	173.7	187	
Total meat																
1960	66.3	39.2	10.0	9.0	10.8	52.7	45.2	52.9	42.2	35.1	183.2	139.9	47.2	733.7	1,048	
1961	77.1	53.5	14.6	16.3	14.5	65.2	52.6	64.7	42.1	34.8	278.5	165.3	39.5	918.7	1,325	

1/ Guam, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands. 2/ Less than 50,000 pounds. 3/ Includes sausage, bologna and frankfurters canned and not canned, sausage ingredients, meat and meat products canned n.e.c., and canned baby food. 4/ Includes quantities of other canned, prepared or preserved meat n.e.s. Assumed to be mostly beef.

All data from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

The number of cattle imported the first quarter of this year is down from the high rate maintained during the fourth quarter of 1961 but is up almost 28 percent from the 220,000 head imported in the first quarter of 1961. The quantity of meat imported the first quarter of this year was also up sharply from a year earlier. The important items contributing to the increase so far this year have been boneless beef and mutton for processing. Imports for the second quarter of this year are expected to be about the same as a year ago but likely will be down during the last half of this year. For the year as a whole, imports probably will implement domestic per capita supplies by about the same 7.3 pounds realized in 1961. Total per capita meat consumption in 1962 likely will about equal the 161.1 pounds consumed last year.

Rank of States in Meat Animal Production

Table 8 ranks the States according to live weight production in cattle, sheep, and hogs in 1961. This refers to the total number of pounds produced on farms during the year and includes the weight added to animals on hand, purchased or born during the year.

Texas leads in the live weight of cattle and sheep produced but Iowa is the outstanding hog producing State. In cattle production, California is the only State in the 10 leading States outside the Corn Belt or Great Plains Regions. This State has moved up from 7th place in 1951 to 6th in 1960 and to 5th in 1961. South Dakota has replaced Wisconsin in the top 10 during the last 10 years.

Colorado moved into third place in sheep production in 1961, ahead of Wyoming, but the other 8 of the 10 leading States held the same ranking as in 1960. Iowa, South Dakota, and Minnesota have moved up in relative importance since 1951, jumping from 7th, 10th, and 11th, respectively, to their current positions.

The top 9 States in hog production in 1961 all lie in the North Central Region. They held the same rankings in 1961 that they did in 1951 and in 1960. Since 1951 Kentucky has moved up from 14th place to take the number 10 spot from Kansas.

Edible Offal

Exports of edible offal (variety meats) reached a new high in 1961, but production gained enough to supply consumers with nearly the same amount as in 1959 and 1960. Table 9 brings up to date data on the supply and distribution of edible offal.

Canned Meat

Table 10 presents data on the supply and distribution of canned meat products. As meat must be canned under Federal inspection to qualify for interstate shipments, it is assumed most canned items are accounted for in the table. Output jumped sharply in 1961, boosting apparent consumption to 11.5 pounds per person. Most canned items showed increases in 1961 over 1960.

Table 8.--Rank of States in live weight of farm production of meat animals, 1961 ^{1/}

Rank	Cattle and calves		Sheep and lambs		Hogs	
	State	Production	State	Production	State	Production
		Mil. lb.		Mil. lb.		Mil. lb.
1	Texas	2,821	Texas	195	Iowa	4,570
2	Iowa	2,379	California	119	Illinois	2,893
3	Nebraska	1,725	Colorado	112	Indiana	1,848
4	Kansas	1,664	Wyoming	104	Minnesota	1,459
5	California	1,481	Iowa	101	Missouri	1,445
6	Illinois	1,405	South Dakota	97	Nebraska	982
7	Minnesota	1,386	Idaho	96	Ohio	922
8	Missouri	1,304	Montana	83	Wisconsin	708
9	South Dakota	1,218	Minnesota	79	South Dakota	696
10	Oklahoma	1,173	Utah	66	Kentucky	468
11	Wisconsin	1,014	Ohio	54	Kansas	467
12	Colorado	912	New Mexico	52	North Carolina	396
13	Montana	725	Oregon	51	Georgia	393
14	Indiana	638	Kansas	47	Tennessee	372
15	North Dakota	636	Nebraska	45	Texas	288
16	Ohio	635	North Dakota	43	Alabama	279
17	Kentucky	548	Illinois	43	Michigan	257
18	Mississippi	536	Missouri	40	Virginia	194
19	Tennessee	503	Indiana	34	Pennsylvania	159
20	Alabama	460	Kentucky	30	North Dakota	144
21	Michigan	456	Arizona	24	Oklahoma	144
22	Idaho	449	Washington	23	Mississippi	141
23	Louisiana	429	Virginia	20	South Carolina	128
24	Oregon	429	Michigan	20	Arkansas	123
25	Pennsylvania	418	West Virginia	17	California	87
26	New Mexico	395	Wisconsin	16	Florida	87
27	New York	385	Oklahoma	14	Montana	61
28	Arkansas	373	Nevada	14	Colorado	58
29	Virginia	366	Tennessee	11	Oregon	57
30	Washington	354	Pennsylvania	11	Maryland	50
31	Wyoming	346	New York	8	Louisiana	49
32	Georgia	329	North Carolina	3	Washington	47
33	Florida	315	Louisiana	2	Idaho	43
34	Arizona	306	Maryland	2	New York	37
35	Utah	209	Arkansas	2	West Virginia	30
36	North Carolina	192	Maine	2	Massachusetts	26
37	Nevada	140	Mississippi	1	New Jersey	24
38	Maryland	132	Alabama	1	Utah	17
39	West Virginia	129	New Jersey	1	New Mexico	16
40	South Carolina	123	South Carolina	2/	Delaware	12
41	Vermont	75	Vermont	2/	Wyoming	10
42	New Jersey	42	Massachusetts	2/	Arizona	7
43	Maine	40	Delaware	2/	Maine	6
44	Connecticut	30	Georgia	2/	Connecticut	4
45	Massachusetts	28	Connecticut	2/	New Hampshire	4
46	New Hampshire	20	Florida	2/	Vermont	3
47	Delaware	10	New Hampshire	2/	Nevada	3
48	Rhode Island	4	Rhode Island	2/	Rhode Island	2
United States		29,688		1,688		20,216

^{1/} Live weight produced during year by livestock on farms. Preliminary data. Exclude Alaska and Hawaii. ^{2/} Less than 500,000 pounds.

Table 9.--Edible offals: Supply and distribution, 1950 to date

Year	Supply				Distribution				
	Total	Beginning	Imports	Total	Ending	Commercial	Domestic disappearance		
	production	commercial	stocks	stocks	commercial	exports and	Military	Civilian	Per
	1/	2/	3/	4/	5/	6/	7/	8/	capita 3/
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.
1950	1,519	62	5	1,586	59	3	4/	1,524	10.1
1951	1,501	59	4	1,564	64	6	4/	1,494	9.9
1952	1,577	64	1	1,642	69	4	4/	1,569	10.2
1953	1,704	69	1	1,774	59	29	4/	1,686	10.8
1954	1,743	59	1	1,803	65	46	4/	1,692	10.6
1955	1,853	65	4/	1,918	70	70	4/	1,778	11.0
1956	1,932	70	4/	2,002	59	99	4/	1,844	11.2
1957	1,849	59	4/	1,908	5/	91	4/	1,758	10.4
1958	1,756	---	2	1,753	--	70	4/	1,688	9.8
1959	1,859	---	2	1,861	--	91	4/	1,770	10.1
1960	1,922	---	2	1,924	--	118	4/	1,806	10.2
1961	1,944	---	2	1,946	--	123	4/	1,823	10.1

1/ Production of offals based on percentage of carcass-weight meat production, including farm: beef 6.7, veal 10.7, lamb and mutton 5.1, pork excluding lard 6.7 percent. 2/ Exports only beginning 1951. Beginning 1952 includes small quantities of sausage ingredients reported in Bureau of Census classification "other meats except canned (including edible animal organs)." 3/ Civilian per capita. 4/ Less than 500,000 pounds. 5/ Not reported. Assumed no change in stocks during the year.

Table 10.--Canned meat: Supply and distribution, 1950 to date

Year	Imports					Domestic disappearance			
	Federally:			Beginning:	Commercial:	Ending:			
	inspected:			stocks	exports and	stocks	Military	Civilian	Per
	production:	Canned	Canned		shipments				capita
	1/	beef 2/	pork 3/	4/	5/	4/	6/	7/	8/
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.
1950	1,231	125	19	27	20	27	50	1,305	8.7
1951	1,441	154	31	27	21	35	246	1,351	8.9
1952	1,351	120	54	35	19	37	58	1,446	9.4
1953	1,437	100	97	37	29/ 9	34	50	10/ 1,558	10.0
1954	1,441	85	113	34	32/ 9	54	34	1,553	9.8
1955	1,508	87	107	54	22	37	38	10/ 1,659	10.2
1956	1,716	73	97	37	28	51	18	10/ 1,826	11.0
1957	1,659	95	108	51	43	57	23	1,790	10.6
1958	1,651	113	123	57	24	57	21	1,842	10.7
1959	1,687	95	120	57	26	53	12	1,868	10.7
1960	1,754	77	127	53	23	57	11	1,920	10.8
1961	1,896	96	125	57	21	56	21	2,076	11.5

1/ Beef, pork, sausage, all other, excluding soup. Data from Meat Inspection Division, ARS. 2/ Data from Department of Commerce. 3/ Federally inspected for entry. Data from Meat Inspection Division, ARS. 4/ Refrigerated stocks only. 5/ Includes shipments to Territories. Data from Department of Commerce. 6/ From Statistical Yearbook of the Quartermaster Corps and other military records. 7/ Calculated from federally inspected supplies and distribution as shown. Federally inspected production is the largest part of total U. S. production of canned meats. 8/ Civilian per capita. 9/ Includes small quantities of canned beef and gravy procured by USDA and shipped abroad by CARE. 10/ Includes canned meat bought by the Department of Agriculture for school lunches and eligible institutions.

SEASONALITY IN SLAUGHTER HOG WEIGHTS

By
Earl E. Miller

The age at which hogs are slaughtered is the principal determinant of slaughter weight. Hog production has a strong association with the seasons of the year--more spring pigs are born in March and April than in any other months, and August and September are the months of largest fall farrowings. Since hogs reach desirable slaughter weights in 6 to 8 months, marketings are usually greatest in late fall and early spring. These increases in supply, when matched with a relatively stable demand for pork, almost always cause hog prices to decline. The large proportion of young hogs marketed during these periods, and shifts in marketings to avoid these periods of lower prices (hence, at lighter or heavier weights) result in a seasonal pattern in slaughter hog weights.

Table 11 shows monthly average weights for slaughter barrows and gilts at 8 Midwest markets and indexes of seasonal variation in 1950, 1955, 1959 and 1960. The seasonal high and low points in slaughter weights are being smoothed out about in line with smaller seasonal variations in production and prices. 1/

In the years shown, average weights were typically heaviest early in the year and lightest in August or September. The average of 241 pounds in January 1955 is one of the highest recorded since World War II, and the low of 209 pounds in August is near-record low. Average annual weights declined in the mid-1950's but have since risen to a 228-230 pound level.

The seasonal indexes range from 94 to 105 in 1950, that is, weights could normally be expected to average 5 percent above the annual average in January and 6 percent below in September. These indexes did not change greatly from 1950 to 1955. By 1960 the range in seasonal indexes was from 95 to 104.

The weight at which farmers sell hogs at a particular time will often vary from the normal pattern--and for a variety of reasons. Impassable roads or the press of other farm work may cause postponements in marketings. Even more important are economic factors on which farmers' base decisions as to market dates. Probably the most important is the fluctuation in hog prices, both as to general level and the margin between weight groups. Usually the market pays a premium for hogs weighing 200-220 compared with either lighter or heavier weights. However, the premium price next week may be below this week's price for light weight hogs or at times the price for heavy weight hogs in the near future may be above the current price for the most desirable weight hogs. In trying to maximize net return, the farmer considers these factors in deciding when to market his hogs.

For the years shown in table 11 it is apparent that average weights were lower in the summer of 1955 than would have been expected from a normal seasonal change. The 1955 spring pig crop was 9 percent larger than in 1954 and hog

1/ See The Changing Seasonal Patterns of Hog Production and Prices, by Arthur A. Harlow, in the September 1960 issue of the Livestock and Meat Situation.

Table 11.--Slaughter hog weights and seasonal indexes, eight markets combined, selected years

Month and year	Average weight of barrows and gilts				Seasonal indexes			
	1950	1955	1959	1960	1950	1955	1959	1960
	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.				
Jan.	239	241	238	232	105	105	104	104
Feb.	235	236	232	228	104	103	102	102
Mar.	230	235	229	229	102	102	101	101
Apr.	232	233	232	232	102	102	102	102
May	232	230	231	234	102	102	102	102
June	229	225	229	232	100	100	101	101
July	224	215	221	228	98	97	97	97
Aug.	217	209	216	223	95	94	95	95
Sept.	213	210	218	222	94	95	96	96
Oct.	220	216	224	225	96	98	98	98
Nov.	228	224	228	231	100	100	100	100
Dec.	235	228	230	232	102	102	102	102
Av.	229	226	228	229	100	100	100	100

prices were below a year earlier. Hence, farmers decided to push hogs to market on the light side despite the fact that 240-270 pounds hogs were selling at a higher price than 200-220 pounds.

Conversely, weights were heavier than normal in the summer of 1960. The outlook was favorable, as the spring pig crop was 16 percent smaller than a year earlier, and feed costs were lower relative to hog prices than they had been for over a year. In this instance, farmers preferred to feed to heavier weights and assume the risk of price declines or discounts for heavy hogs.

Price differentials for light or heavy hogs also follow a seasonal pattern. Heavy hogs are usually discounted most in December or the following January and again in late spring or early summer. During these periods sow slaughter is also larger than at other times of the year, meeting part of the demand for heavy hogs. During these periods hogs weighing less than 200 pounds may also receive a premium. Price discounts for hogs weighing 180-200 pounds are larger in July and August.

Apart from the month-to-month changes that are likely to occur, there are longer time variations associated with broader economic conditions and production practices. The low hog-corn price ratios of 1955 and 1956, for example, did not encourage feeding to heavy weights. Low lard prices usually result in substantial discounts for overfat hogs. Much of the increase in average weights since mid-1950 is due to wider use of meat-type hogs which produce a leaner carcass. Thus weights can be higher without much risk of a price discount for excess fat.

SEASONAL PRICE VARIATION FOR CHOICE SLAUGHTER STEERS

By

Donald Seaborg

Our economy is so dynamic that change and not status quo is the rule. Therefore, it is necessary to study prices continuously to detect when and in what direction seasonal price indexes may be shifting. Production and marketing decisions based on seasonal price patterns, which have been rendered invalid because of change, are certain to yield results short of expectations.

A study of the price for Choice slaughter steers sold out of first hands at Chicago from 1950 to 1960 shows evidence that the seasonal price pattern for this grade of slaughter cattle has changed.

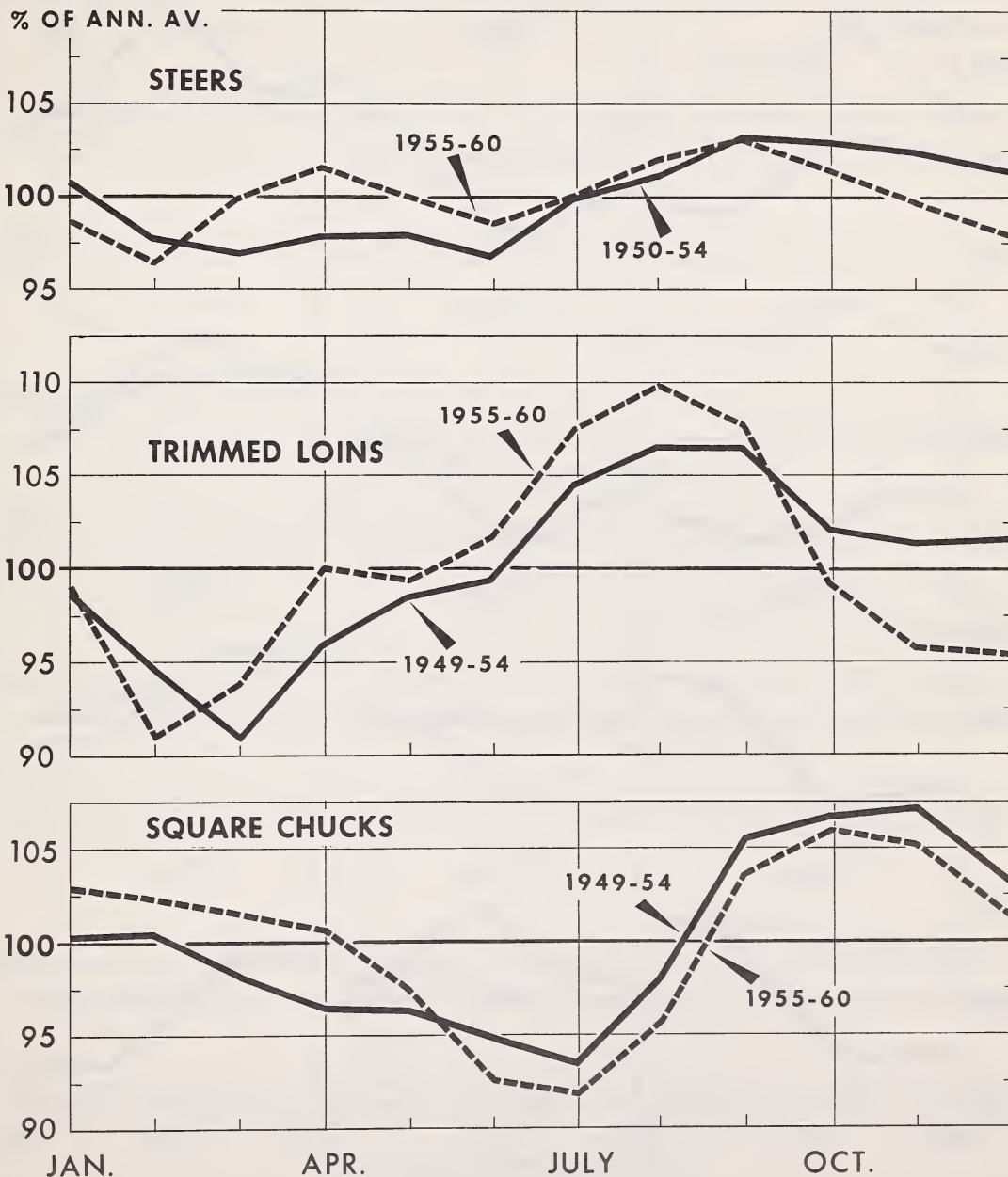
The seasonal indexes for Choice slaughter steers at Chicago for the periods 1950-54 and 1955-60, are pictured on page 23. During the first half of the decade of the 1950's, Choice steer prices tended to be below the annual average price for the first half of the year, rose sharply from June to a September peak, and then gradually declined the remainder of the year. In the more recent time period, there is a distinct tendency for prices to have a spring peak in April, decline to June, rise to a fall peak in September and to decline rapidly the remainder of the year.

However, if the price pattern for each individual month is studied for the entire 10 year period, a still different seasonal pattern is evident for the years 1958, 1959, and 1960. (See chart, page 24.) The years 1954-57 appear to be a transitional period. Therefore, when they are included in the seasonal pattern they tend to mask the extent of the actual shift taking place. The price for Choice slaughter steers for the 1958-60 period, was above the annual average for March, April, and May, and below the annual average during October, November, and December. The opposite was true of the 1950-54 period when the seasonal high price occurred in October, November, and December and prices the first half of the year were below average.

Before a firm conclusion is drawn on the basis of 1958-60 data, one must recognize that price in 1961 fluctuated more nearly the seasonal pattern of the early 1950's but that price this year likely will trace out a pattern similar to the 1958-60 period. Perhaps the final conclusion will be that we no longer have a reliable seasonal price pattern for Choice steers or perhaps that we are developing a cycle in the seasonal index itself.

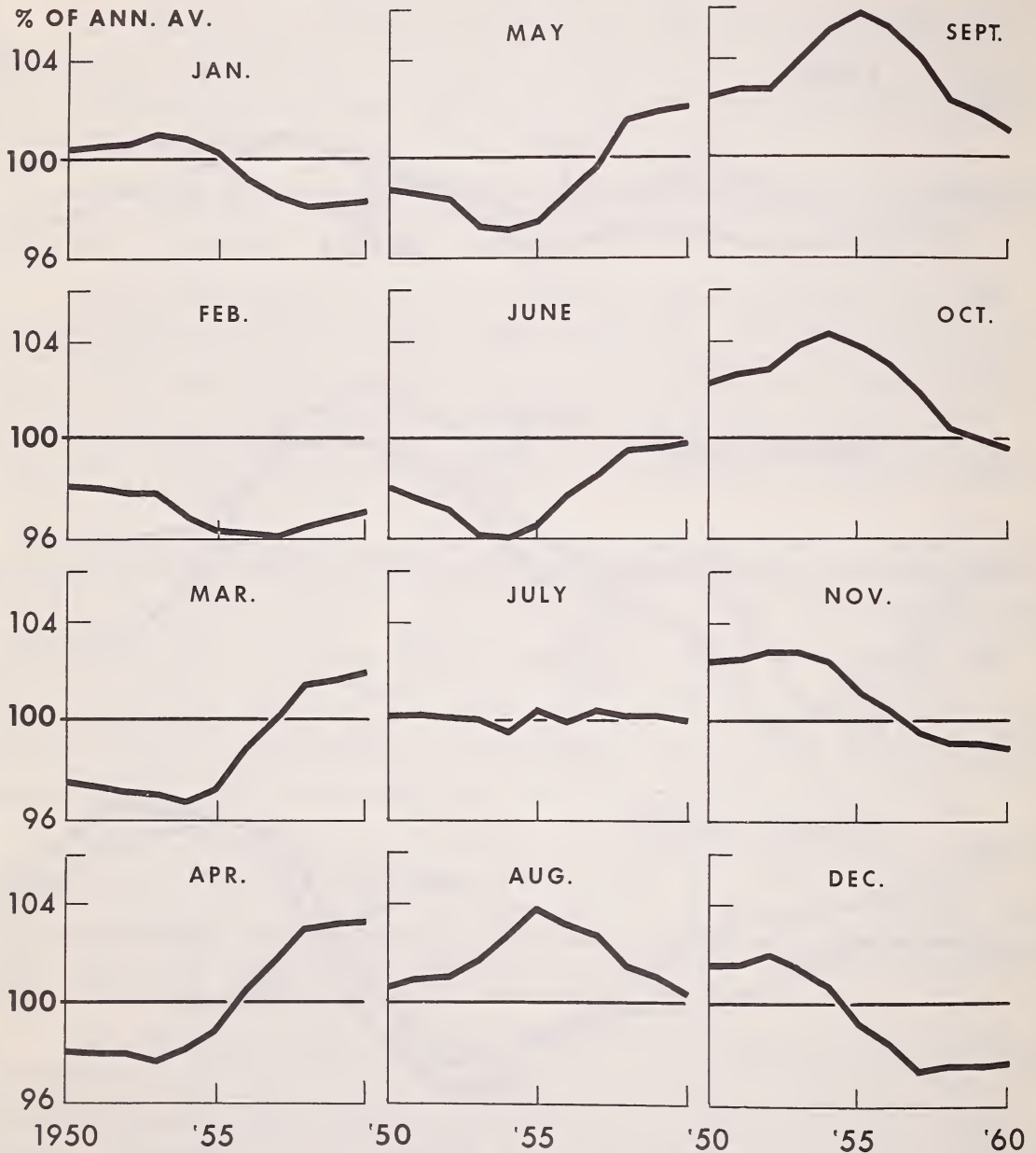
One significant change that has occurred on the supply side of the Choice steer market in recent years is the growth of the cattle feeding industry and the levelling out of the supply of Choice steers throughout the year. Only 10 years ago, the basic source of Choice steers was still the winter feeding program. From 1947-53, April and May were the peak months for sales of Choice steers out of first hands, with sales in these two months running about 25 percent above average for the year. In 1961, first quarter marketings of fed cattle from 26 States were 4 percent below the quarterly average for the year, second quarter marketings were 3 percent above and the final two quarters were almost equal to the quarterly average.

SHIFT OF SEASONAL PRICE INDEX FOR CHOICE STEERS AND WHOLESALE CUTS



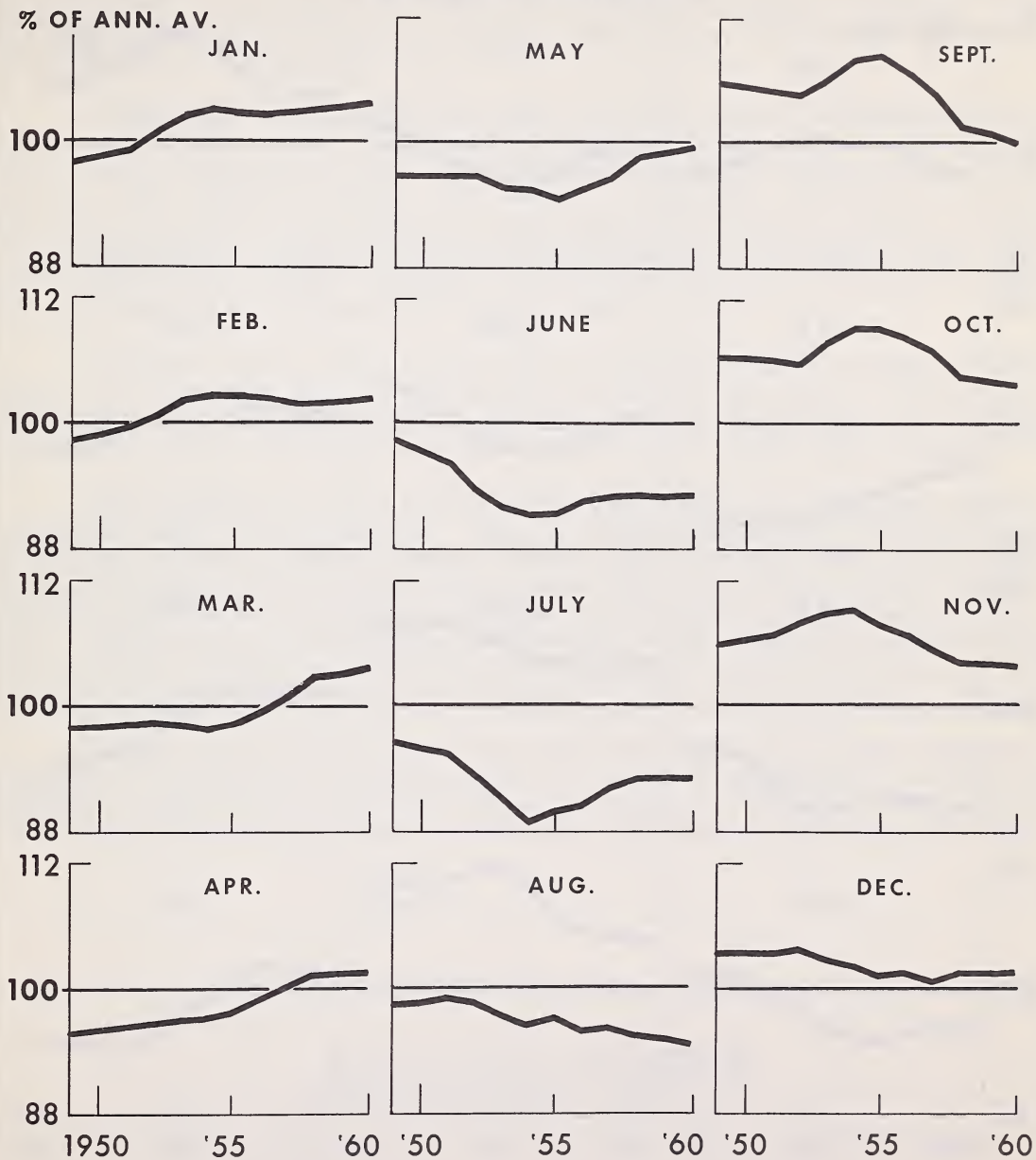
SEASONAL VARIATION FOR CHOICE GRADE AT CHICAGO

SEASONAL PRICE MOVEMENT FOR CHOICE SLAUGHTER STEERS



SEASONAL VARIATION FOR CHOICE GRADE AT CHICAGO

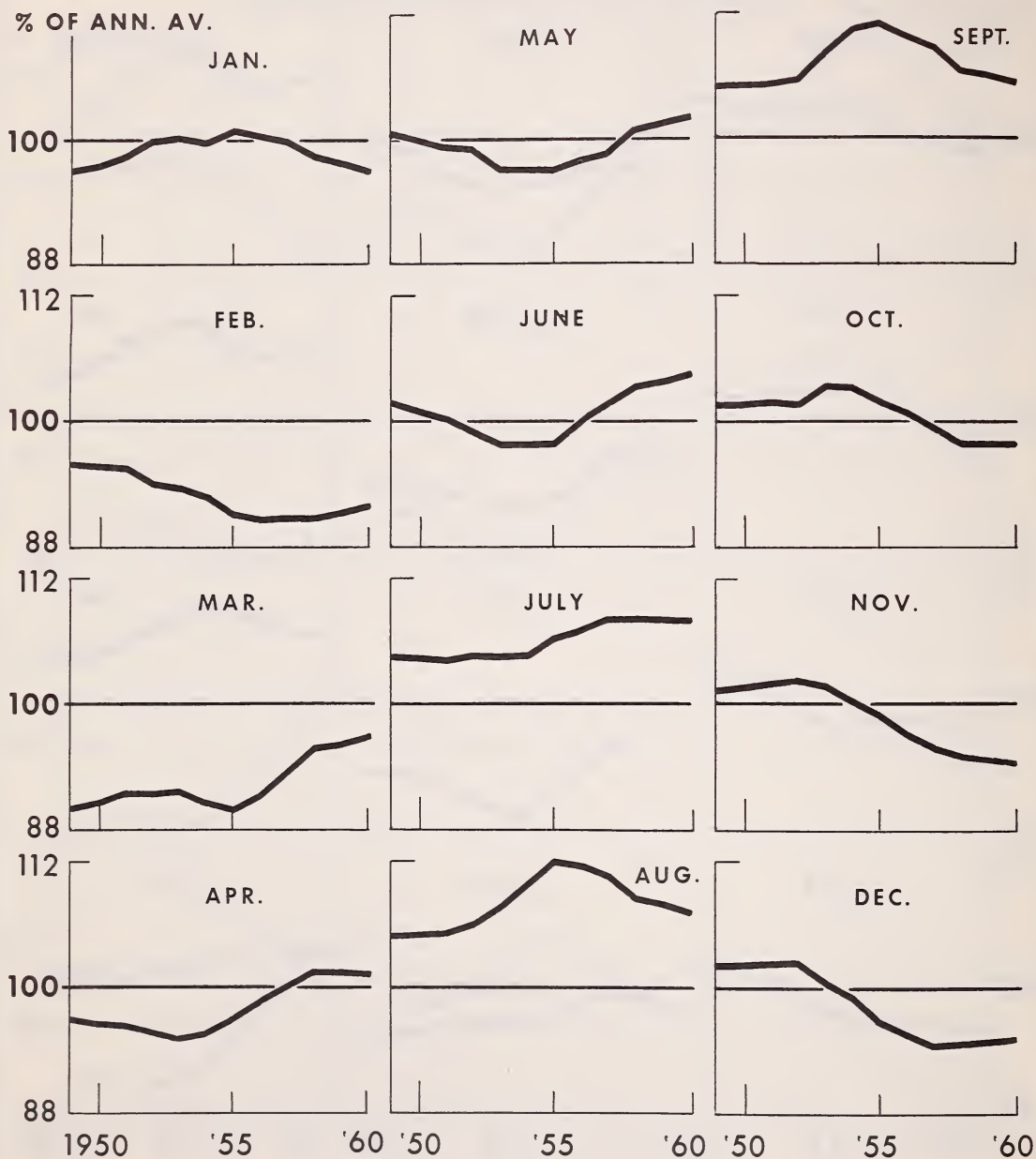
SEASONAL PRICE MOVEMENT FOR SQUARE CHUCKS



SEASONAL VARIATION FOR CHOICE GRADE AT CHICAGO

SEASONAL PRICE MOVEMENT FOR TRIMMED LOINS

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SEASONAL VARIATION FOR CHOICE GRADE AT CHICAGO

Consumer demand also plays an important role in the seasonal variation of cattle prices. Likewise a shift in consuming habits and other demand factors have also had an impact on the variation in demand throughout the year. Consumer preference tends to shift from roast to steak in warm weather and back to roast again as cooler weather sets in.

A comparison between the wholesale price for loins, representing steak demand, and square chucks, representing roast demand, is presented in the cover chart. Loins increase in price from February to August, whereas, chucks decrease in price from February to July. The charts on pages 25 and 26 show the shifts that have occurred in the seasonal price pattern for loins and chucks. Again as in the seasonal index for steers presented earlier, the middle years, 1953-57, are a transitional period. When the first few and the last few years of each index by month are compared shifts can be readily seen.

In recent years, loin prices tend to rise more rapidly, reach a higher August peak, and then make a more pronounced drop in the fall. On the other hand, the prices for chucks tend to hold up better through April than formerly, but now drop faster from April to June than was true of the early 1950's.

The interaction of the prices of wholesale cuts in the market results in a composite value of the carcass. This is a blend price. It reflects the value of all the separate wholesale cuts. In the case of steers there is a greater percentage cut-out of roast cuts than steak cuts from a beef carcass so that composite carcass value tends to decrease in the summer and increase in the fall. However, the exact pattern of variation in the composite carcass value is also complicated by the overlapping in the price patterns and rate of change of the various wholesale cuts.

Shifts in the price pattern for steers are primarily an end result of changes in the livestock industry and/or in consumer preferences. As different management practices are adopted, and as the tastes of consumers alter, further shifts can be expected in the seasonal price pattern for beef steers.

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: The next issue of the Livestock
: and Meat Situation is scheduled
: for release July 10, 1962.
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Supply and distribution of meat, by months, October 1961 to date

Meat and period	Commercially produced								Total 2/		
	Supply				Distribution				Civilian consumption		
	Production	Beginning stocks	Imports	Exports and shipments	Ending stocks	Military	Civilian consumption	Per person 1/	Production	Total	Per person
							Total				
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.
Beef:											
October	1,336	171	95	5	173	35	1,389	7.7	---	---	---
November	1,237	173	103	5	201	30	1,277	7.0	---	---	---
December	1,169	201	79	4	200	26	1,219	6.7	---	---	---
4th quarter	3,742	171	277	14	200	91	3,885	21.4	3,845		22.0
Year	14,930	170	1,021	56	200	360	15,505	86.0	15,296		88.0
1962											
January	1,327	200	99	5	184	30	1,407	7.7	---	---	---
February	1,110	184	73	4	169	28	1,166	6.4	---	---	---
March	1,232	169	146		172				---	---	---
1st quarter	3,669	200	318		172						3/22
Veal:											
October	91	8	2	4/	9	4	88	.5	---	---	---
November	84	9	2	1	11	4	79	.4	---	---	---
December	71	11	2	4/	11	4	69	.4	---	---	---
4th quarter	246	8	6	1	11	12	236	1.3	270		1.4
Year	960	14	16	2	11	40	937	5.2	1,045		5.7
1962											
January	82	11	1	4/	9	3	82	.5	---	---	---
February	68	9	2	4/	8	2	69	.4	---	---	---
March	77	8	2		8				---	---	---
1st quarter	227	11	5		8						3/1.4
Lamb and mutton:											
October	73	21	2	4/	20	4/	76	.4	---	---	---
November	65	20	7	4/	18	4/	74	.4	---	---	---
December	62	18	6	4/	18	4/	68	.4	---	---	---
4th quarter	200	21	15	4/	18	4/	218	1.2	205		1.2
Year	818	12	101	2	18	2	909	5.0	832		5.1
1962											
January	77	18	20	4/	16	4/	99	.5	---	---	---
February	66	16	6	4/	16	4/	72	.4	---	---	---
March	68	16	27		18				---	---	---
1st quarter	211	18	53		18						3/1.5
Pork:											
October	993	128	18	11	136	21	971	5.4	---	---	---
November	1,034	136	18	12	193	19	964	5.3	---	---	---
December	950	193	17	11	200	16	933	5.1	---	---	---
4th quarter	2,977	128	53	34	200	56	2,868	15.8	3,299		17.1
Year	10,730	170	187	138	200	201	10,548	58.5	11,412		62.3
1962											
January	1,016	200	18	10	210	17	997	5.5	---	---	---
February	865	210	16	9	235	18	829	4.6	---	---	---
March	1,010	235	20		278				---	---	---
1st quarter	2,891	200	54		278						3/16.5
All meat:											
October	2,493	328	117	16	338	60	2,524	13.9	---	---	---
November	2,420	338	130	18	423	53	2,394	13.2	---	---	---
December	2,252	423	104	15	429	46	2,289	12.6	---	---	---
4th quarter	7,155	328	351	49	429	159	7,207	39.8	7,619		41.7
Year	27,438	366	1,325	193	429	603	27,899	154.7	28,585		161.1
1962											
January	2,502	429	138	15	419	50	2,585	14.2	---	---	---
February	2,109	419	97	13	428	48	2,136	11.7	---	---	---
March	2,387	428	195		476				---	---	---
1st quarter	6,998	429	430		476						3/41.5

1/ Derived from estimates by months of population eating out of civilian food supplies. 2/ Includes production and consumption from farm slaughter. 3/ Estimated. 4/ Less than 500,000 pounds.

Selected price statistics for meat animals and meat

Item	Unit	1961		1962	
		March	April	February	March
				April	
Cattle and calves					
Beef steers, slaughter	Dollars per				
Chicago, Prime	100 pounds	27.36	27.14	28.65	30.12
Choice	do.	25.70	25.05	26.76	27.31
Good	do.	23.84	23.46	24.54	24.98
Standard	do.	21.26	21.05	21.82	21.98
Commercial	do.	20.00	19.61	---	21.62
Utility	do.	19.35	19.29	19.87	20.02
All grades	do.	25.32	24.73	26.04	26.65
Omaha, all grades	do.	23.91	23.14	24.51	24.73
Sioux City, all grades	do.	24.06	23.47	24.90	24.80
Cows, Chicago					
Commercial	do.	16.83	17.47	15.40	16.52
Utility	do.	16.48	16.95	15.26	15.97
Cutter	do.	15.85	16.44	14.87	15.33
Canner	do.	14.37	14.91	13.40	13.88
Vealers, Choice, Chicago	do.	29.90	30.28	---	---
Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City 1/	do.	24.50	24.38	23.16	24.56
Price received by farmers					
Beef cattle	do.	20.80	20.50	20.80	21.20
Cows	do.	15.30	15.40	14.50	15.10
Steers and heifers	do.	23.00	22.60	23.50	23.70
Calves	do.	24.40	24.10	25.20	25.30
Hogs					
Barrows and gilts, U. S. No. 1, 2 & 3, Chicago					
180-200 pounds	do.	17.74	17.44	---	---
200-220 pounds	do.	17.91	17.60	17.04	16.69
220-240 pounds	do.	17.74	17.44	16.88	16.50
240-270 pounds	do.	17.44	17.16	16.44	16.08
All weights	do.	17.54	17.18	16.69	16.28
Barrows and gilts, 8 markets 2/	do.	17.53	17.04	16.69	16.31
Sows, Chicago	do.	15.66	15.26	13.84	14.08
Price received by farmers	do.	17.10	16.80	16.30	16.00
Hog-corn price ratio 3/					
Chicago, barrows and gilts		15.9	15.9	15.5	14.7
Price received by farmers, all hogs		16.9	17.4	17.1	16.5
Sheep and lambs					
Sheep	Dollars per				
Slaughter ewes, Good and Choice, Chicago	100 pounds	7.29	7.30	4/5.75	4/5.56
Price received by farmers	do.	6.18	5.83	5.94	6.12
Lamb					
Slaughter, Choice, Chicago	do.	17.54	16.98	17.96	17.92
Feeder, Good and Choice, Omaha	do.	16.65	15.75	5/15.66	5/16.18
Price received by farmers	do.	16.60	16.00	16.30	16.50
All meat animals					
Index number price received by farmers					
(1910-14=100)		309	305	305	307
Meat					
Wholesale, Chicago	Dollars per				
Steer beef carcass, Choice, 500-600 pounds	100 pounds	43.42	42.10	43.86	43.88
Lamb carcass, Choice, 45-55 pounds	do.	38.68	37.50	37.00	36.88
Composite hog products:					
Including lard					
71.90 pounds fresh	Dollars	19.57	19.19	18.30	18.13
Average per 100 pounds	do.	27.22	26.69	25.45	25.21
71.01 pounds fresh and cured	do.	23.26	22.65	22.16	21.90
Average per 100 pounds	do.	32.76	31.90	31.21	30.84
Excluding lard					
55.99 pounds fresh and cured	do.	20.63	20.12	19.99	19.70
Average per 100 pounds	do.	36.85	35.93	35.70	35.18
Retail, United States average	Cents				
Beef, Choice grade	per pound	81.3	80.6	80.8	80.8
Pork, retail cuts	do.	59.5	59.1	58.1	57.4
Lamb, Choice grade	do.	67.3	64.8	66.9	67.0
Index number meat prices (BLS)					
Wholesale (1957-59=100)		95.8	94.7	96.1	96.1
Retail (1957-59=100) 6/		101.4	100.8	100.6	100.5

1/ Average all weights and grades.

2/ Chicago, St. Louis N. S. Y., Kansas City, Omaha, Sioux City, S. St. Joseph, S. St. Paul, and Indianapolis.

3/ Number bushels of corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of live hogs.

4/ Good grade.

5/ Choice grade.

6/ Includes beef and veal, pork, leg of lamb, and other meats.

Selected marketing, slaughter and stocks statistics for meat animals and meat

Item	Unit	1961		1962	
		March	April	February	March : April
Meat animal marketings					
Index number (1947-49=100)		132	118	118	
Stocker and feeder shipments to					
8 Corn Belt States	1,000				
Cattle and calves	head	402	371	279	334
Sheep and lambs	do.	119	157	127	131
Slaughter under Federal inspection					
Number slaughtered					
Cattle	do.	1,627	1,502	1,467	1,649
Steers	do.	901	856	870	991
Heifers	do.	389	339	310	346
Cows	do.	314	285	274	297
Bulls and stags	do.	23	21	13	15
Calves	do.	457	378	362	461
Sheep and lambs	do.	1,311	1,247	1,177	1,227
Hogs	do.	6,110	5,049	5,312	6,225
Percentage sows	Percent	5	6	6	6
Average live weight per head					
Cattle	Pounds	1,055	1,047	1,049	1,040
Calves	do.	198	212	202	188
Sheep and lambs	do.	105	103	102	103
Hogs	do.	236	240	238	237
Average production					
Beef, per head	do.	611	607	606	602
Veal, per head	do.	112	118	114	653
Lamb and mutton, per head	do.	51	51	50	50
Pork, per head	do.	138	139	139	141
Pork, per 100 pounds live weight	do.	58	58	59	60
Lard, per head	do.	31	33	31	30
Lard, per 100 pounds live weight	do.	13	14	13	13
Total production	Million				
Beef	pounds	991	908	887	990
Veal	do.	51	44	41	49
Lamb and mutton	do.	67	63	59	61
Pork	do.	840	701	739	878
Lard	do.	191	167	165	185
Commercial slaughter ^{1/}					
Number slaughtered	1,000				
Cattle	head	2,108	1,947	1,895	2,113
Calves	do.	712	582	552	667
Sheep and lambs	do.	1,482	1,417	1,323	1,378
Hogs	do.	7,144	5,946	6,241	7,195
Total production	Million				
Beef	pounds	1,240	1,137	1,110	1,232
Veal	do.	83	72	68	77
Lamb and mutton	do.	75	71	66	68
Pork	do.	979	822	865	1,010
Lard	do.	215	187	186	206
Cold storage stocks first of month					
Beef	do.	144	142	184	169 172
Veal	do.	13	12	9	8 8
Lamb and mutton	do.	12	18	16	16 18
Pork	do.	235	244	210	235 278
Total meat and meat products ^{2/}	do.	469	477	482	497 548

^{1/} Federally inspected, and other wholesale and retail.^{2/} Includes stocks of canned meats in cooler in addition to the four meats listed.

LIST OF TABLES

<u>Table</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Page</u>
1	Price of slaughter cattle per 100 pounds at Chicago, by months, 1961 and 1962	7
2	Price of feeder and stocker cattle per 100 pounds at Kansas City, by months, 1961 and 1962	7
3	Average price and value of important items affecting returns from lamb feeding 1956-61	10
4	Production and consumption per person of red meat and poultry, United States, 1955-61 and forecast for 1962	13
5	United States imports of cattle and beef, lambs and lamb and mutton compared with production 1950-61	14
6	Imports of cattle from Canada and Mexico 1952 to date	15
7	United States foreign trade in meat by countries 1960 and 1961 ...	16
8	Rank of States in live weight of farm production of meat animals 1961	18
9	Edible offals: Supply and distribution 1950 to date	19
10	Canned meat: Supply and distribution 1950 to date	19
11	Slaughter hog weights and seasonal indexes 8 markets combined selected years	21

Standard Summary Tables

Supply and distribution of meat October 1961 to date	28
Selected price statistics for meat animals and meat	29
Selected marketing, slaughter, and stock statistics for meat animals and meat	30

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